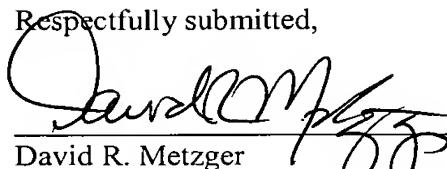


R E M A R K S

Claims 1-16 are pending and under consideration. In the Office Action of November 4, 2003, claims 1-8 were deemed allowed. Claims 9-16 were objected to in view of various informalities.

In response, claims 1, 9 and 13 have been amended to correct the noted informalities. It is submitted that all of claims 1-16 are now allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



(Reg. No. 32,919)

David R. Metzger
SONNENSCHEIN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP
P. O. Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station - Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080
Telephone (312) 876 8000
Customer No. 26263